

Civic Tools

Successful applicants intentionally engage one or more of Spirit & Place’s civic tools. While interdisciplinary events are encouraged – and given special preference by the Selection Committee – only connecting to one civic tool is required.

ARTS	HUMANITIES	RELIGION
<p>By engaging our senses, the arts provide opportunities for embodied learning, liberate the imagination, and unlock fresh perspectives.</p> <p>Spirit & Place recognizes a wide mix of art forms. Applicants need not worry about being classically trained (although we welcome those with formal training!). Artistic practices from fine to folk art, poetry and spoken word, music, dance, and beyond are welcome.</p>	<p>Through history, literature, philosophy, anthropology, language, and related disciplines, the humanities explore the complex interactions between people, place, and time.</p> <p>Humanities-based disciplines allow us to find common narratives of the human condition and can be a powerful tool in exploring the annual theme, especially when combined with other civic tools.</p>	<p>The world’s spiritual traditions invite us to examine what it means to be human, how we live our values in both individual and public life, and how we should live in relationship to others.</p> <p>Through religion, Spirit & Place embraces the values of compassion, fairness, hospitality, and service and welcomes people of faith to bring their authentic selves to the festival. However, the festival is not a space for proselytizing.</p>

Engaging with our Civic Tools

Intentionally engaging the arts, humanities, and/or religion is critical to a successful festival application and event. Below are just a few examples of what we mean by “engaging” with these civic tools.

<p>ARTS</p> <p>If designing a lecture or panel discussion, note that <i>talking about</i> an art form, genre, or artist without also sharing artistic examples is a huge miss. So is adding in an art-making activity without connecting it to the theme. To strengthen your application, share examples of theme-based questions or prompts guiding your efforts and/or how art-making activities connect with the theme.</p>
<p>HUMANITIES</p> <p>Applications MUST specify which humanities-based discipline(s) will be used (i.e., history, literature, law, etc.). Successful applicants also demonstrate how these disciplines will be used in examination of the theme. Connecting around a shared sense of “humanity” or “humanness” is NOT using a humanities discipline.</p>
<p>RELIGION</p> <p>Engaging with religion as a civic tool means unpacking practices, beliefs, music, text, etc. in relation to the theme. It does not mean creating a religious event nor does hosting an event at a place of worship constitute a religious connection. Applicants are asked to be mindful of language. For example, “Christianity” is not a synonym for “religion.” All expressions of faith are welcome and interfaith efforts with non-Abrahamic traditions are encouraged.</p>